



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 144TH FIGHTER WING (ACC) (ANG)  
FRESNO AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE CALIFORNIA**

04 January 2018

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**FROM:** 144 MSG/CC  
5323 East McKinley Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727

**SUBJECT:** Los Angeles Times Story

1. At 1523L on 03 January 2018 I received an email in my personal civilian email box from Ms. Alene Tchekmedyian (reporter from the Los Angeles Times) concerning a story they are writing. In the email, she states: "retired Maj. Dan Woodside told us that you informed him in December 2017 that you were ordered to destroy the Pineda evidence by the 144th wing "leadership," which in May 2016 consisted of Maj. Gen. Garrison and Col. Drake". At no time was I ordered, instructed, or told to destroy evidence by then-Col. Garrison or Col. Drake. In fact, the evidence had been stored for nearly a year (several months after the investigation was closed). In discussions with my investigator and after reviewing the appropriate Air Force Instruction (AFI31-115) about investigations, evidence holding, and disposition, the investigator and I felt that there was no reason to continue storing it. I discussed disposing of the evidence with then-Col Garrison and his only guidance was to consult with the Wing's Judge Advocate General (then-Lt Col Caryn Warren) beforehand to ensure we were doing things properly and in accordance with the AFI. A memorandum for record (MFR) from the investigating officer specifying evidence destruction and disposal was written on 16 Mar 2016 and signed by the investigation officer. It was concurred with and signed by myself and Lt Col Warren. The evidence was destroyed and disposed of on 16 June 2016.

2. If you have any further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (559) 454-5125 or DSN 839-5125.

WM. DAVID JOHNSTON, Colonel, CA ANG  
144<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group Commander